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Ex-C.I.A. Aide's Access to Secrets on Transition Panel

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 — A former Central Intelligence Agency analyst, forced to resign for violating the agency's security rules, has been reviewing highly classified documents for a Reagan transition team, stirring sharp controversy in the intelligence community, Carter Administration officials said this week.

David S. Sullivan, the former analyst and former staff member of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, has been serving since November on the Reagan transition team for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He was forced out of the C.I.A. in 1978 after admitting that he had supplied top-secret reports to a Senator's aide.

Two weeks ago, Adm. Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence, blocked Mr. Sullivan from access to agency information and to employees he had sought to interview in connection with his work on the transition team. The Departments of State and Defense, however, have permitted him to review highly sensitive material, and Mr. Turner and other senior intelligence officials are deeply concerned, according to Government officials.

On Capitol Hill and in several Government agencies, officials who declined to

be identified said they regarded Mr. Sullivan with suspicion and criticized his appointment to the transition team as "inappropriate."

Mr. Sullivan's appointment to the team and his performance were defended by James A. Malone, the Washington lawyer who heads the team. "Mr. Sullivan has brought a very important dimension to the transition team effort," Mr. Malone said. "There has been a difference of opinion with Admiral Turner over access to classified information, but other agencies have honored Mr. Sullivan's security clearances, and he has gotten the information he needs."

Violated Agency Regulations

Mr. Sullivan was out of town and did not respond to requests for an interview.

Mr. Sullivan was forced by Mr. Turner to resign from the agency, Administration and intelligence sources said, after admitting that he had supplied copies of a top-secret agency report he had written on the strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union to a staff aide of Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington. Mr. Jackson was a leading critic of the arms negotiations. The Senator and his aide, Richard Perle, had high security clearances, and a Government official said at the time that no Federal law had been violated.

Mr. Sullivan told friends that he felt obliged to give Mr. Jackson the report, despite the violation of agency regulations on distributing classified documents, because he thought his analysis was being withheld by Mr. Turner in an effort to suppress information damaging to the arms talks.

Mr. Sullivan was also involved in a controversy about the disappearance of an American spy with the code name of Trigon in the Soviet Union. Several Washington reporters who declined to be identified say that Mr. Sullivan told them that an official of President Carter's national security staff was suspected of inadvertently exposing Trigon, a charge that the C.I.A. and the Justice Department have rejected as without basis. Mr. Sullivan has repeatedly denied that he talked to the reporters.

Dismissed by Humphrey

After his forced resignation from the agency, Mr. Sullivan went to work as a staff aide to Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Democrat of Texas. He later joined the staff of Senator Gordon J. Humphrey, Republican of New Hampshire.

Last September, Mr. Sullivan drafted a letter to Admiral Turner for Mr. Humphrey requesting information about the status of an F.B.I. inquiry into the expo-

Stirs Controversy

sure of Trigon. Mr. Humphrey, reportedly unaware that Mr. Sullivan had a connection with the case while at the C.I.A., discharged him for "failing to deal with me forthrightly."

Mr. Malone said that Mr. Sullivan, a part of the six-member transition team since its inception, has had access to the most sensitive national security information in connection with his post and was regarded as "highly qualified in a lot of areas" for the arms control transition team assignment.

He noted that as a defense analyst for the Republican Policy Committee, Mr. Sullivan had been granted security clearances, which were routinely reviewed and approved when his name was submitted to Government agencies as a prospective member of the transition team.

"Stan Turner took a different view," said an official familiar with the episode. "He hit the roof when he found out that Sullivan had made an appointment at the agency to discuss Soviet compliance with SALT and other treaties."

Mr. Sullivan, the official said, was informed that he would not be permitted to enter agency grounds or to interview C.I.A. officials. The official also noted that the C.I.A. was not consulted by other agencies that granted Mr. Sullivan clearance for classified information.